

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 111834
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 /019 R

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-----002375 022148Z /66

R 022117Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

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STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, MP

SUBJECT: FOOD FOR MAURITIUS

REF: PORT LOUIS 419

1. WE HAD HOPED TO BE ABLE TO SQUEEZE OUT DOLS 1 MILLION FOR ABOUT 3,000 MT RICE UNDER PL-480 TITLE I FOR MAURITIUS IN FY 78. DESPITE OUR BEST EFFORTS WE HAVE THUS FAR BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL BECAUSE OF THE RAPID DWINDLING OF THE UN-ALLOCATED TITLE I RESERVE. PRICE INCREASES, TOGETHER WITH ADDITIONAL REQUESTS FROM EXISTING TITLE I RECIPIENTS OF HIGH POLITICAL PRIORITY, HAVE DRAWN DOWN THE RESERVE. IN ADDITION, THE ADMINISTRATION, AFTER CONSIDERABLE DELIBERATION, HAS DECIDED NOT RPT NOT TO SUBMIT REQUEST TO CONGRESS FOR SUPPLEMENTAL TITLE I APPROPRIATION FOR FY78.

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2. WE WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK OPPORTUNITY TO PROGRAM TITLE I FUNDS FOR MAURITIUS IN FY 78 AND WILL PRESS HARD FOR FORMAL ALLOCATION OF DOLS 1 MILLION IN FY 79 AND FY 80. WE WOULD RECOMMEND THEREFORE THAT YOU CONSULT FURTHER WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF MAURITIUS WITH A VIEW TO FORMALIZATION OF REQUEST MADE BY FINANCE MINISTER RINGADOO (PORT LOUIS

95). IT IS OUR JUDGMENT THAT ANY FURTHER DELAYING OF FORMAL GOM REQUEST WILL SIMPLY WEAKEN OUR EFFORTS TO PERSUADE OTHER AGENCIES TO SUPPORT A PROGRAM. YOU SHOULD INDICATE TO THE MAURITIANS THAT WE ARE UNLIKELY BE ABLE TO MEET REQUEST IN CURRENT FISCAL YEAR, BUT THAT WE WOULD HOPE TO BE RESPONSIVE IN FY 79.

3. IN DRAWING UP ITS RECOMMENDATIONS ACCOMPANYING FORMAL GOM REQUEST, EMBASSY IS INVITED TO FOLLOW SUGGESTIONS PROVIDED IN PRIMER ENCLOSED WITH JAN/FEB AF NEWSLETTER. WE WOULD LIKE TO REEMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE OF FORMULATING STRONG DEVELOPMENT RATIONALE FOR PROGRAM WHICH WOULD MAKE CLEAR HOW PROVISION OF TITLE I COMMODITIES AND LOCAL CURRENCY GENERATIONS FROM THEIR SALE CAN CONTRIBUTE TO AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT WITH POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE RURAL POOR. POST SHOULD CITE GOM POLICY STATEMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING WHERE APPLICABLE. YOU MAY WISH TO FORMULATE SELF-HELP PROVISIONS, FOR EXAMPLE, FOCUSING ON IMPROVED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY ON RODRIGUES AND/OR ANIMAL HUSBANDRY ON THE MAIN ISLAND.

4. BASED ON MOST RECENT AVAILABLE WORLD BANK FIGURE OF DOLS 610 PER CAPITA INCOME, MAURITIUS APPEARS INELIGIBLE FOR TITLE III. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: PL 480 TITLE 1, FOOD ASSISTANCE
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Draft Date: 02 may 1978
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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